

Sweet culinary legacy

Bahrain's oldest halwa shop in Manama Souq preserves traditions

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Located in the heart of Manama Souq, Bahrain's oldest halwa shop stands as a testament to the rich culinary heritage of the Kingdom.

Renowned for its traditional red halwa, this iconic shop has become a destination of choice for both locals and visitors, drawing patrons from across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

The halwa maker, Mahdi, affectionately known as Saeed by his customers, has dedicated himself to preserving Bahrain's culinary legacy.

One unique feature of his shop



Mahdi making red halwa

is the wall adorned with photographs of patrons, a heartfelt gesture of appreciation and love



Old picture of halwa making in Manama souq

towards his regular customers and friends. "The pictures serve as a gift of

gratitude to our loyal customers, and it's a way for me to show my affection and appreciation,"

Mahdi shared in an interview with The Daily Tribune.

"By placing these photographs on our wall, we create a sense of connection and nostalgia, allowing future generations to witness their family's history when they visit our shop."

The shop sells traditional red halwa, known as "semen" in Arabic, made with ghee. It is priced between 2.5 to 6 Bahraini dinars. They also offer halwa made with oil, called "dehen" in Arabic, and packets of Mattai, a popular Arab snack.

To uncover the origins of this beloved treat, The Daily Tribune spoke with local guide Yunus, who shed light on the historical journey of halwa in Bahrain.

Drug bust nets over BD51,000 narcotics, multiple arrests

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The General Directorate of Criminal Investigation has arrested several suspects - including a woman - on drug trafficking charges after seizing over 3kg of assorted narcotics worth approximately BD51,000.

In a statement, the anti-narcotics chief said intelligence reports led to coordinated raids that identified the culprits and recovered the illegal substances from their possession.

Additional evidence in the form of foreign currencies from suspected drug sales proceeds were also confiscated, he affirmed. Authorities have since catalogued and stored the contraband haul as criminal cases against the detainees are referred to public prosecutors.

As part of ongoing community partnerships, the directorate renewed appeals for tipsters to anonymously report any suspicious activities.

University of Technology Bahrain Supports Academic Research

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University of Technology, Bahrain.

A collaborative research titled "Effect of leadership styles on turnover intention among staff nurses in private hospitals: The moderating effect of perceived organisational support" was published in the Springer Q1 Journal by the faculty of Uni-

versity of Technology, Bahrain. Dr Haitham Alqahtani, VP of Academic Affairs UTB, Dr Jayendra Shankar, Assistant Professor UTB, Dr Nidhi S Menon, Assistant Professor UTB, Dr Shabana Faizal, Assistant Professor UTB, and Dr Surabhila Patali completed the assignment.



From left, Dr Haitham Alqahtani, Dr Jayendra Shankar, Dr Nidhi S Menon and Dr Shabana Faizal



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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	31 December 2023 BD	(Restated) 31 December 2022 BD	(Restated) 01 January 2022 BD
Assets			
Intangible assets	29,404	4	4
Furniture and equipment	4,372	2,286	2,667
Right-of-use assets	11,989	18,844	26,210
Investments	370,466,320	415,481,564	622,612,694
Policy loans	4,323,504	4,436,206	4,740,263
Reinsurance contract receivable	159,450,472	167,980,991	11,922
Accrued interest income	8,941,283	10,363,249	9,525,703
Other assets	129,364	178,669	1,053,429
Statutory deposits	648,503	703,194	704,095
Term deposits with banks	71,364,219	90,869,605	116,143,699
Cash and cash equivalents	21,269,854	29,406,318	41,613,201
Total assets	636,639,284	719,440,930	796,433,887
Equity and liabilities			
Equity			
Share capital	65,439,300	65,439,300	65,439,300
Statutory reserve	7,771,644	7,771,644	7,771,644
Contingency reserve	232,192	232,192	228,580
Investments fair value reserve	(463,071)	(1,167,367)	(237,084)
Insurance finance reserve	78,988,878	96,153,767	-
Reinsurance reserve	12,887	-	-
Accumulated losses	(99,749,314)	(85,046,122)	(14,415,000)
Total equity	52,232,516	83,383,414	58,787,440
Liabilities			
Employees' end-of-service indemnity	41,822	29,969	36,094
Lease liabilities	13,527	20,740	28,127
Amounts due to related parties	119,477	86,234	188,476
Insurance contract liabilities	580,521,433	633,089,110	733,834,277
Zakat and tax provisions	287,356	300,010	300,010
Reinsurance contracts liabilities	77,626	80,154	110,980
Other liabilities	3,345,527	2,451,299	3,148,483
Total liabilities	584,406,768	636,057,516	737,646,447
Total equity and liabilities	636,639,284	719,440,930	796,433,887

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	31 December 2023 BD	(Restated) 31 December 2022 BD
Insurance revenue	105,617,230	46,984,569
Insurance service expenses	(127,158,073)	(101,269,519)
Insurance service result before reinsurance contract held (a)	(21,540,843)	(54,284,950)
Allocation of reinsurance premium paid	(156,943)	(288,939)
Amounts recoverable from reinsurers	-	574,595
Net expenses from reinsurance contracts held(b)	(156,943)	285,656
Insurance service result (a+b)	(21,697,786)	(53,999,294)
Net finance expenses from insurance contracts issued	(22,093,843)	(20,464,913)
Net financial result (c)	(22,093,843)	(20,464,913)
Net financial results from insurance operations(a+b+c)	(43,791,629)	(74,464,207)
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments at FVTPL	3,460,412	(17,437,450)
Realised income from investments	28,917,959	31,214,217
Impairment reversal/(loss) on investment securities, net	176,427	(7,419,402)
Income from investments (d)	32,554,798	6,357,365
Net insurance financial result and income from investments (a+b+c+d)	(11,236,831)	(68,106,842)
General and administrative expenses	(1,413,257)	(1,732,404)
Reinsurance fee	(1,317,172)	(791,196)
Other income	696,884	566,385
Transfer to Actuarial reserve to LIC India	(930,320)	(667,076)
Other expenses	(453,854)	111,208
Loss before zakat and income tax	(14,654,550)	(70,619,925)
Zakat and income tax expense	(35,755)	(7,585)
Loss for the year	(14,690,305)	(70,627,510)
Other comprehensive (loss)/income to be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		
Net change in fair value of investment at FVOCI during the year	704,296	(930,283)
Net finance (expenses)/income from insurance contracts issued	(17,164,889)	96,153,767
Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	(16,460,593)	95,223,484
Total comprehensive(loss)/income for the year	(31,150,898)	24,595,974

A Company incorporated in the Kingdom of Bahrain (C.R. No. - 21606) and licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as a Life Insurance Company with paid-up capital of BD65,439,300.

The financial information has been audited by M/s Grant Thornton Abdulaal. A copy of the report and financial information will be available at the registered office of the Company. The financial information was approved by Board of Directors and signed on their behalf by:

Mr. Siddhartha Mohanty
Chairman

Mr. Debashis Prasad Pattanaik
CEO & Executive Director